

Remarks

In furtherance of the Request for Continued Examination filed herewith, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this Application and consideration of the foregoing amendment, which is hereby submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-4, 6-9, 12-15, and 18-27 are pending in the application, with 1, 6, and 12 being the independent claims. Claims 5, 10, 11, 16, and 17 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 23-27 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner allows claims 1-4, 6-9, 12-15, and 18-22. (Paper No. 111204, pages 4-5). Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of these claims. In the above amendment, new claims 23-27 have been added, and include subject matter previously recited in cancelled claims 5, 10, 11, 16, and 17, respectively. New claims 23-27 depend from allowed claims 1, 6, and 12,

and should likewise be allowable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's consideration and allowance of the new claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 5, 10, 11, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as allegedly being obvious in view of U.S. Patent 6,574,218 to Cooklev (herein referred to as "Cooklev"). (Paper No. 111204, page 2). Although Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of Cooklev, claims 5, 10, 11, 16, and 17 have been cancelled. Therefore, this rejection is now moot. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion

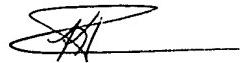
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will

expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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